



HR0433

LRB101 12714 MST 61445 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In the State of Illinois, two thirds of gun
3 violence is related to suicide, and one third is related to
4 homicide, claiming approximately 12,000 lives a year; and

5 WHEREAS, Violence has plagued communities, predominantly
6 poor and distressed communities in urban settings, which have
7 always treated violence as a criminal justice issue, instead of
8 a public health issue; and

9 WHEREAS, On February 21, 2018, Pastor Anthony Williams was
10 informed that his son, Nehemiah William, had been shot to
11 death; and

12 WHEREAS, Due to this disheartening event, Pastor Anthony
13 Williams reached out to state Rep. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez,
14 urging that the issue of violence be treated as a disease; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2018, elected officials from all levels of
16 government started a coalition to address violence as a
17 disease, with the assistance of faith-based organizations,
18 advocates, and community members and held a statewide listening
19 tour from August 2018 to April 2019; and

20 WHEREAS, The listening tour consisted of stops on the South

1 Side and West Side of Chicago, in Maywood, Springfield, and
2 East St. Louis, with a future scheduled visit in Danville; and

3 WHEREAS, During the statewide listening sessions,
4 community members actively discussed neighborhood safety,
5 defining violence and how and why violence occurs in their
6 communities; and

7 WHEREAS, The listening sessions provided different
8 solutions to address violence, however, all sessions confirmed
9 a disconnect from the priorities of government and the needs of
10 these communities; and

11 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois should create a process to
12 identify high violence communities, also known as R3 areas, and
13 prioritize state dollars to go to these communities to fund
14 programs as well as community and economic development projects
15 that would address the underlying causes of crime and violence;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Due to a variety of reasons, including in
18 particular the State's budget impasse, funds were unavailable
19 to establish such comprehensive policy; and

20 WHEREAS, Policies like R3 (Restore, Reinvest, and Renew)
21 are needed in order to provide communities that have

1 historically suffered from divestment, poverty, and
2 incarceration with smart solutions that can solve the plague of
3 violence; and

4 WHEREAS, It is clear that violence is a public health
5 problem that needs to be treated as such, a disease; and

6 WHEREAS, Research has shown that when violence is treated
7 in such a way, then its effects can be slowed or even halted;
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we stand together with the victims of violence and their loved
12 ones who are being plagued by this disease in communities
13 across Illinois, and that we urge that violence be labeled and
14 treated as a public health crisis in order to effectively
15 address it; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 delivered to Pastor Anthony W. Williams of the First
18 Congregational Church of Berwyn.